

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026484

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT VALLETTA 0135 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
CAPE TOWN, DAR ES SALAAM, GABORONE, LAGOS, LUSAKA, MAPUTO,
MBABANE, PRETORIA, USUN NEW YORK, LILONGWE 31 JAN 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0135

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH,UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PROPOSAL FOR GOVERNING COUNCIL

REF: VALLETTA 0133,

1. FOLLOWING IS A DOCUMENT ON GOVERNING COUNCIL
GIVEN TO PARTIOTIC FRONT BY FOREIGN SECRETARY
OWEN TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 31. IT REPRESENTS
A PROPOSED REVISION IN THE WHITE PAPER PROPOSALS
DESIGNED TO AFFORD ALL NATIONALISTS, BUT PARTICULARLY
THE PF, A MORE ACTIVE AND VISIBLE ROLE IN GOVERNMENTAL
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AFFAIRS DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. AS SUCH, IT GRANTS
TO THE NATIONALISTS A CAREFULLY DELIMITED LEGISLATIVE
ROLE DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND REPRESENTS A NOT
INSIGNIFICANT DIMUNITION OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S
POWERS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE TRANSITIONAL CONSITUATION WILL

ESTABLISH A GOVERNING COUNCIL WHICH THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER WILL BE OBLIGED TO CONSULT IN THE EXERCISE OF HIS POWERS EXCEPT THOSE RELATING TO CERTAIN SPECIFIED SUBJECTS, WHICH WILL IN ANY CASE INCLUDE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND INTERNAL SECURITY, AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION. IN ANY CASE WHERE HE IS REQUIRED TO CONSULT THE COUNCIL HE WILL BE OBLIGED TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS ADVICE IF IT REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF TWO THIRDS OF ITS MEMBERSHIP (NOT INCLUDING THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER HIMSELF); BUT HE WILL BE FREE TO DISREGARD THE COUNCIL'S ADVICE WHERE IN HIS JUDGMENT, TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE EFFECTIVE DISCHARGE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE OF THE SPECIFIED MATERS RESERVED TO HIM. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S POWER TO LEGISLATE ON ANY TOPIC, THE GOVERNING COUNCIL WILL BE EMPOWERED TO LEGISLATE ON ANY TOPIC, THE GOVERNING COUNCIL WILL BE EMPOWERED TO FORWARD TO THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER DRAFT LEGISLATION WHICH WILL BECOME LAW IF ASSENTED TO BY HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE RULES.

3. THE GOVERNING COUNCIL WILL BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND WILL BE COMPOSED OF TEN OTHER MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE PARTIES WHO
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PARTICIPATED IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OF 1976 (TWO EACH ZANU, ZAPU, UANC, ANC (SITHOLE) AND RF). END TEXT.
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UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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